

Message Text

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SUBJECT: FAO'S REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL WHEAT NEGOTIATIONS

REF: (A) ROME 6422

1. FAO REPORT FOR COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY ON THE CONFERENCE TO NEGOTIATE AN INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENT TO REPLACE THE INTERNATIONAL WHEAT AGREEMENT OF 1971 HAS BEEN SENT TO THE DEPARTMENT, BYRNES, IO/AGR.

2. THE REPORT IS A REASONABLY FAIR, NEUTRAL BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE EEC. PARA 5 DESCRIBES AREAS OF BROAD CONSENSUS AND PARA 16 DESCRIBES AREAS OF DISAGREEMENT. PARA 10 LISTS FOUR KEY QUESTIONS BEGIN QUOTE:

(I) WILL THE OVERALL SIZE OF THE GRAIN RESERVE UNDER THE AGREEMENT BE SUFFICIENT TO SUSTAIN FOOD CONSUMPTION, ESPECIALLY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, IN TIMES OF SERIOUS AND WIDESPREAD CROP
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FAILURE?

(II) ARE THE INTERNATIONAL PRICES AT WHICH THE RESERVES WILL BE RELEASED AT LEVELS WHICH WILL PERMIT THE POORER COUNTRIES TO SATISFY THEIR ESSENTIAL IMPORT REQUIREMENTS?

(III) IS THERE ADEQUATE PROVISION FOR SPECIAL INTERNATIONAL

ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN THE ACQUISITION OF STOCKS, CARRYING CHARGES, AND STORAGE FACILITIES FOR NATIONAL RESERVES SO AS TO ENABLE THEM TO PARTICIPATE ON AN EQUAL BASIS?

(IV) DOES THE NEW FOOD AID CONVENTION ENSURE COMMITMENTS FOR AT LEAST 10 MILLION TONS OF CEREALS ANNUALLY? DOES IT PROVIDE FOR THE CONTRIBUTIONS TO BE INCREASED DURING YEARS OF SERIOUS PRODUCTION SHORTFALL SO AS TO MEET LARGE-SALE EMERGENCY NEEDS? END QUOTE

3. PARAS 17-19 MAKE THREE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY WHICH THE USDEL SHOULD BE PREPARED TO RESPOND TO:

(A) WFS MAY WISH TO SUPPORT A PROVISION IN THE NEW FOOD AID CONVENTION IN LINE WITH PROPOSAL THAT THE NEW FAC SHOULD PROVIDE FOR ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF UP TO 20 PERCENT OVER THE MINIMUM CONTRIBUTIONS IN YEARS OF SUBSTANTIAL PRODUCTION SHORTFALLS.

(B) WFS MAY WISH TO REQUEST THE GOVERNMENTS PARTICIPATING IN THE INTERIM COMMITTEE AND THE NEGOTIATING CONFERENCE TO URGE THE MEMBERS NOT MERELY "TO CONSIDER THE ADVANTAGES OF DIRECTING A GREATER PROPORTION OF FOOD AID THROUGH MULTILATERAL CHANNELS" AS SUGGESTED IN THE PRESENT DRAFT BUT UNCLASSIFIED

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TO ACTUALLY "CHANNEL A MORE SIGNIFICANT PROPORTION OF FOOD AID THROUGH THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM" AS RECOMMENDED BY THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE.

(C) WFS MAY WISH TO RECOMMEND IF DIFFERENCES ON THE TRADE CONVENTION MIGHT DELAY THE CONCLUSION OF A NEW FAC WITH A HIGHER TARGET, A NEW FOOD AID CONVENTION, PROVIDING FOR FOOD AID IN CEREALS FOR AT LEAST 10 MILLION TONS A YEAR, SHOULD BE CONCLUDED BY DONORS INDEPENDENTLY OF THE AGREEMENT ON A NEW TRADE CONVENTION; SUCH A SEPARATELY NEGOTIATED FOOD AID CONVENTION COULD, IF SO DESIRED, SUBSEQUENTLY BE INCORPORATED IN A NEW INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT WHEN CONCLUDED. GARDNER

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